

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

DPW-01 /065 W

----- 032468

O R 050658Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4984

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, US, VN

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT LOW CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 26003; B) CANBERRA 728 (NOTAL)

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, CHARGE CALLED UPON MICHAEL COOK, DFA FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NORTH AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, REHEARSED BACKGROUND OF ISSUE, AND URGED GOA TO UPHOLD CHAIR OR AT LEAST ABSTAIN IN ANY CHALLENGE TO CHAIR'S RULING ON RULE 32.

2. COOK HAD JUST RECEIVED DETAILED REPORT FROM GENEVA AND WAS STRUCK BY SINGULAR NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND VOTES FEB 4. GOA UNDERSTANDS THAT 41-41 TIE VOTE WAS ACTUALLY UPON MOTION TO ACCEPT APPLICABILITY OF RULE 35. HAD MOTION BEEN TO ACCEPT RULE 32, SAME TIE WOULD HAVE HAD OPPOSITE EFFECT.

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COOK THEREFORE REGARDED SITUATION AS ESPECIALLY MOOT.

3. HE AGREED TO REVIEW AUSTRALIAN POSITION WITH HIS
SUPERIORS IN LIGHT OF RENEWED US DEMARCHE. HOWEVER,
HE ANTICIPATED THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD OPPOSE CHAIR'S
RULING IN EVENT OF CHALLENGE BECAUSE OF GOA POSITION
THAT PRG DESERVED OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVITED OR
EXCLUDED BY MAJORITY OF CONFERENCE WITHOUT RESORT TO
PROCEDURAL CAMBITS. HE SAID INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE
DISPATCHED TO GOA DELEGATION PRIOR TO SESSION.

4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT BE OPTIMISTIC. FONMIN
WILLESEE HAS COME DOWN CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF SIMPLE
MAJORITY VOTE (REFTEL B). IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IN ANY CASE FOR
COOK AND DFA SECRETARY RENOUF TO DISCUSS THIS
COMPLEX MATTER WITH HIM BY TELEPHONE DURING TERRIGAL
LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN FEW HOURS AVAILABLE. COOK
DID SEEM SENSITIVE ABOUT HYPOCRISY
OF GOA POSITION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUBSTANCE
WAS IN FACT BEING DECIDED IN "PROCEDURAL"
VOTES AND THAT GOA WAS TAKING A POSITION IN
"PROCEDURAL" VOTES BUT ABSTAINING ON "SUBSTANTIVE"
VOTES. ARGUMENT THAT AUSTRALIA IS ALIGNED WITH
COMMUNIST ASIAN NATIONS IS NOT PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AS
LONG AS NON-COMMUNIST ASIAN GOVERNMENT MOST IMPORTANT TO
AUSTRALIA (INDONESIA) IS ON SAME SIDE. HARROP

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NNN

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